political problems; men who would laugh to scorn the pretender to the knowledge of their own art or business—who think that seven years' apprenticeship may be required for the acquisition of it, and yet without seven days' study of the science of politics think themselves competent to solve its difficulties; and possessed with this inflated notion of their own wisdom, or that ignorant estimate of the nature of the subject they presume to handle, are seen perpetually spouting with the usual accompaniments of a pipe or cigar and the swillpot, with the confidence of oracles and the assumption of sages. This state of things we have seen and deplored, but consoled ourselves in the notion that it was more confined to the less intellectual crafts into which our industrial sections are divided, and we still think that the building class is less bitten with this mania than many others; but, nevertheless, we are constrained to confess that there is something too much of it amongst us. We do not speak in the spirit of disappointment, for we were aware of all this, and have been long aware of it; but we now speak in the spirit of generous reproof. We would awaken our class from the torpor which influences them, and call them in the warning language of a friend to be aroused immediately from it.

When we offered, a short time ago, if backed by a sufficient number of students, to secure to them a school of art instruction, for drawing, mensuration, modelling, &c., we expected a much larger number would have signified their readiness to avail themselves of such an institution than did so—the number did not exceed some twelve or fourteen, or at any rate it never reached twenty; the number we prescribed to encourage us to go on; notwithstanding which, however, we did not sleep upon our plan, and commenced a series of inquiries to enable us to proceed in the matter when called upon, as satisfactorily for all parties as we could. We have a mortal aversion to disturbing or trenching upon the interests of any man or set of men, and accordingly our first inquiry was as to the parties and the number of parties engaged already in teaching drawing upon the system, or any thing like the system we had defined—these we found, as we expected, to be very few: there was Mr. Grayson and Mr. Cade, and Mr. Smith, the author of the tract which we have noticed this day in our columns. Our object was then to unite these gentlemen in one system of working, if possible, so as not to damage, but rather to improve their respective positions, and to found, if necessary, in conjunction with these schools as branches, one parent or central superior school. We were not without hopes, either, that the professions of the Council of the School of Design would have been evidenced in an active and practical manner, by falling in with our suggestions to promote this important object; but in this we did not and have not yet succeeded. We thought that of all the legitimate aims of a real school of design, none could be more self-evidently useful than that for building artificers; but some think differently—and we may be wrong; at any rate, with the discouragement we met with, if discouragements they are to be called, and considering the season, we resolved to defer the active prosecution of the plan till nearer the winter and long nights, when the artisans are more likely to attend to classes and courses of study and instruction; but now we see light breaking in upon our view, and so it is with those who persevere in any good purpose, and yield nothing to despondency or despair.

This "Association of Architectural Draughtsmen" we hail with great pleasure, not only for their own sakes, and for the good which their organization is calculated to produce; not only for the little service we may be able to do, and are disposed and anxious to do them, but for that good which they may do to their class in the branch of the working artificer, and from which they may themselves reap corresponding benefit.

Let them then prepare themselves for their legitimate position, as the leaders and instructors of such a parent or central school. Their benevolent fund might be greatly augmented by the proceeds from their course of teaching and great benefits in practical knowledge and influence of position accrue to them individually and collectively. We can only conclude for the present by saying that we are their humble servants in the promotion of this or any other end of their honest ambition:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—It may not be known to you that a society exists, called the "British Association of Architectural Draughtsmen," having for its object, by union and co-operation, the providing with employment those of its members who may require it. For this purpose a register is kept of those unemployed, and which is available to architects who may require assistants. Also, each member of the society furnishes quarterly a drawing of some *executed* architectural subject, which drawings are kept in the portfolios of the society, and not only form a means of collecting vast professional information, but a sure guide for architects, by which to judge of the abilities of the assistants they may select. Connected with the society we have also established a benevolent fund for assisting those of our body who, through misfortune or ill-health, may require it.

We are induced to communicate this from seeing an article in No. 21 of your valuable journal on "Seeking Employment." We should be most happy to communicate from time to time drawings connected with architecture, and now submit one, shewing one of the chancel windows in the round church at Little Maplestead, Essex, by Mr. J. K. Colling, which, should you think it worthy of insertion, we beg to place at your service.

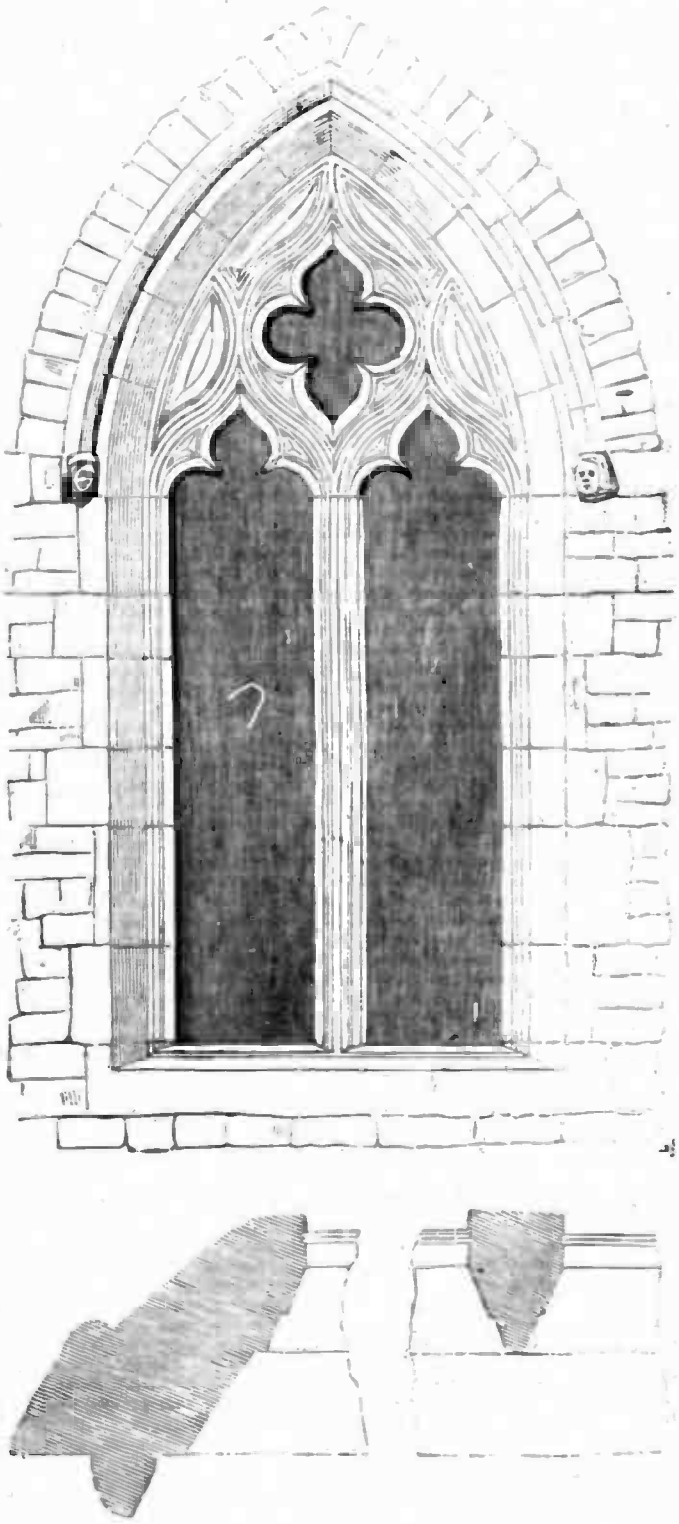
We respectfully invite yourself, or any member of the profession, to honour us with a visit, to inspect our drawings, at any of our meetings, which are held at the Café Royal, No. 42, Castle Street, Holborn (nearly opposite Furnival's Inn), on the first and third Wednesdays in every month, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WILSON, Hon. Sec., B.A.A.D.

29, Southampton Street, Strand



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